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NSC BRIEFING

IRANIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS

- I. Behind outward policy of firmness, Iranian leaders are voicing concern over possible foreign and domestic repercussions from Soviet propaganda attacks.
  - A. Sustained propaganda campaign of threat and invective began after breakdown in Iranian-Soviet negotiations on 10 February, and is aimed at preventing signature of the pending defense agreement with the US and at undermining Shah's regime.
  - B. Khrushchev in extemporaneous remarks at the close of his Moscow speech on Tuesday charged that the Shah was seeking a bilateral agreement with the US "to deal with forces who might act against him with his own Iranian people."
    1. Khrushchev claimed he already had the text which the US and Iran are to sign.
    2. Soviet premier's war of nerves against the Tehran regime has been reinforced by recent Soviet broadcasts in Persian which appealed to "patriotic" Iranian army officers to frustrate a US-Iranian defense agreement. Broadcasts emphasized the example of Egypt and Iraq where officers overthrew hated regimes.
  - C. On the Iranian side the Shah has threatened privately to sever diplomatic relations with the USSR, and Prime Minister Eqlal has appealed to London and Washington for strong public assurances that Soviet aggression against Iran would not be tolerated.
    1. Prime Minister claims that Soviets are spreading rumors that they will move into northwestern Iran if the bilateral defense agreement with the United States is signed though Soviet ambassador Bagov has denied responsibility for these rumors.

2. Egbal also maintains that Moscow has located a training school near the Iranian border for special Soviet agents who will subvert the Iranian government.

Note fDr DCI: All differences over terminology of the pending American bilateral agreements with Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan appear to have been resolved and plans are being completed for their signature in Ankara possibly within a few days.